Teen Straight Talk: A Team Approach to Educating the Youth of Lubbock

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ABSTRACT

It is not enough to teach our medical students and nursing students how to care for the physical ailments of their patients in the hospital, we must also teach them how to work together and band together to help in alleviating many of the health and societal ills of our community.

The TTUHSC community cannot isolate ourselves in our clinics and hospitals, we must branch out into the community to care for and educate the masses to prevent epidemics of illnesses and health related problems.

The Teen Straight Talk (TST) Program does this. It takes students from the TTUHSC School of Nursing and School of Medicine, TTU Department of Human Sciences and Family Studies, and the TTU Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work and puts them together as a team to educate parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, youth leaders, and teens and preteens ages 10 – 18 years of age to help decrease this community’s high rates of teen pregnancy, preterm births and low birth rate weight babies due to teen births and Lubbock’s high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Unlike numerous areas of medicine, societal medical issues often require a team approach to have any chance of impacting the issues in a positive way. Teen Straight Talk has attempted to be this team approach to both the TTUHSC/TTU community and the Lubbock community.

While this program has included the skills of graduate, nursing and medical students, as well as residents and faculty, we have not fully incorporated these individuals into the TST Program as a training exercise in collaborative patient and student education.

With the QEP Interprofessional Teamwork Grant, these students can learn how to better communicate as a team, collaborate to improve medical and societal problems, and resolve the conflicts arising from sensitive problems.

There are few programs in the TTUHSC community that incorporates so many students from such a variety of schools and we hope that the QEP Interprofessional Teamwork Grant will allow us to expand the teamwork education of our students.

Lubbock County Teen Pregnancy (Ages 13 – 17)

PROJECT ACTIVITIES & ASSESSMENT

• TTUHSC nursing students, medical students and residents will work with SON and SOM faculty to learn how to teach a comprehensive sex education program to help decrease Lubbock’s high rates of teen pregnancy and STIs. Interprofessional classes taught by SON and SOM faculty will prepare students to work as a team.

• TTU graduate students in Human Development, Family Studies and Sociology will work with TTU faculty to learn how to teach programs on how to deal with all aspects of teen peer pressure. They will also learn how to work as a team with the TTUHSC part of the Teen Straight Talk Interprofessional Team.

• Each TTUHSC and TTU student taking part in the TST Program will take a pre- and post- QEP survey prior to and just after the training program and after taking part in the community wide TST programs and workshops.

PUBLIC COST OF TEEN PREGNANCY for 2008

➢ In 2008 – The approximate one year cost of 274 children born to teens in Lubbock County: $6,411,600
➢ In 2008 – Teen pregnancy cost Texas: $1.2 Billion
➢ In 2008 – Teen pregnancy cost the U.S.: $10.9 Billion